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Reserve

CURRENT EXTENSION INFORMATION

Reported by Members of the Staff of the Office of Cooperative Extension Work During

June, 1932.

ADMINISTRATION

C. B. SMITH

Activities or conditions noted:

The 3-week summer course in extension methods given by the Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge was attended by 74 extension agents, 40 men and 24 women. There were 10 supervisors, 14 specialists, 33 county workers, 13 agricultural and home economics teachers and 4 others.

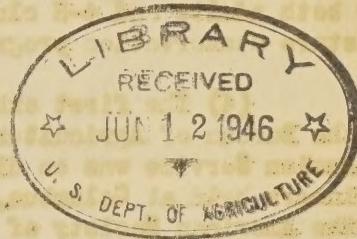
SUBJECT-MATTER SPECIALISTS

S. P. LYLE

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) Informative news items averaging about 140 words each on the following timely agricultural engineer topics have been prepared for release by W. C. Krueger, extension agricultural engineer of New Jersey. These items containing new links and timely hints should be useful to farmers and helpful to county agricultural and home demonstration agents: (a) Remove obstructions before planting fields, (b) clean up fence rows and hedges, (c) milking machines reduce labor, (d) poultry burglar alarms, (e) home-made cooling tanks, (f) use wires on plow for covering trash, (g) tractors are most efficient when loaded to their rated capacity, (h) hot water for the dairy, (i) drain the wet spots, (j) pressed wood for range shelters, (k) protected machinery lasts longer, (l) titanium paints for outside white finish, (m) electric cable heats cutting benches, (n) insulate milk-cooling tanks, (o) ice or electric, (p) clean and ditch with dynamite, (q) plant garden for field cultivation (r) know your electric rates, (s) buy guaranteed galvanized sheeting, (t) conserve value of farm manures, (u) keep the farm at home, (v) silos afford cheap food storage, (w) hot water by wire, (x) milk-house insulation, (y) house farm equipment, (z) keep the tools sharp, (aa) a new method for hay handling, and (bb) hose irrigation.

(2) Farm building plan catalogues to illustrate plans available through the extension service have been issued in a number of States. These States have placed these catalogues with county extension workers, building material dealers, builders, and in vocational school libraries in order that all recommendations for farm building designs within a State shall be in harmony with the State extension service recommendations. The most recent plan service catalogue has just been released by the California College of Agriculture. The Virginia A. & M. College is now publishing such a catalogue.



(3) The Texas Extension Service announces a record in terracing, 1,000,000 acres of farm land being terraced during 1931. Runnels County, Tex., claims the best record, having terraced 234,793 acres of its 395,200 cultivated acres, during the past 6 years. During that time production per acre has been increased 25 to 50 per cent due to terracing. Terracing schools were conducted for both adults and 4-H club members by 12 community units in a 6-year soil and moisture conservation program.

(4) The first exhibition of State farm building plan designs selected by the Bureau of Agricultural Engineering for exchange through the Cooperative Extension Service was on display during the Conference of Extension Agricultural Engineers held at Columbus, Ohio, June 16-18, sponsored by the college division of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers. This initial, tentative selection consists of 267 sets of plans covering all types of building plans suitable to farm conditions in all parts of the United States. Seven hundred and eight plans were contributed by 26 States for this exchange pool.

C. D. LOWE

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) Seasonable demonstrations such as shearing, dipping, and drenching of sheep; the use of multi-hitches for getting the most out of work stock; the use of pasture - especially legumes - and protein supplements in hog production and the supplementing of pasture with grain in beef production were found to be predominant in a recent trip to mid-west States.

There is need for dissemination of information among the more prudent of farmers as to just how their economic position compares with that of similar groups in other occupations. Many compare their present incomes with their own of 12 to 15 years ago rather than with those in other pursuits of life at the present. It seems apparent that the farmer of to-day who has been following and who continues to follow a system of diversified farming on land free from debt is in particularly favored circumstances. This fact should have more emphasis.

(2) From 38 to 43 per cent of the total farm income in Iowa comes from swine. More than 50 per cent of the farms of the State depend upon hogs for the major portion of their income. Farmers of Iowa slaughter on the average for home consumption 800,000 head of hogs, 171,000 head of cattle, and 37,000 sheep per year.

(3) Horses and mules furnish more than three-fourths of the farm power of Indiana. It is estimated that they consume about 20 per cent of the corn crop and represent about one-fourth of the total value of all domestic farm animals in the State. Surveys show that 60 per cent of all horses are 12 years of age or older and that less than 2 per cent are yearlings. It takes about 7 per cent yearlings to provide replacement stock.

(4) In Michigan, the department of farm engineering cooperated with the animal husbandmen in offering to farm communities a demonstration in the construction of dipping vats for sheep. A portable concrete mixer was furnished by the college; farmers supplied the cement, gravel, sand, and other materials and the necessary labor by which vats were provided at a cash outlay of from \$10 to \$15 each.

Following construction, dipping demonstrations for the control of external parasites were conducted. At one of these 851 head of sheep and lambs owned by 13 different owners were dipped and drenched in a period of about 6 hours. The cost per head for drugs and chemicals was less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents.

(5) Multi-hitch demonstrations conducted in Michigan by H. F. Moxley were attracting much attention and resulting in large numbers of farmers adopting this method of cutting costs.

(6) In Ohio the county-wide sheep field days being conducted in 27 counties by L. A. Kauffman, sheep specialist, in cooperation with the Ohio Cooperative Wool Growers Association and certain other agencies are being enthusiastically accepted as real aids in a period of stress. Average attendance was running near the 250 mark. Demonstrations in wool grading, sheep shearing, lamb grading, carcass cutting, docking, castrating, drenching, and in conducting a postmortem featured the meetings. The Chicago Flexible Shaft Company furnished the equipment and an operator for demonstrating shearing and sponsored a sheep-shearing contest at each county meeting. Market agencies furnished specialists who conducted the lamb-grading demonstrations, while J. F. Walker of the Ohio Wool Growers Association conducted the wool-grading demonstrations and made an effective exhibit of different types and grades of Ohio wools.

(7) At Americus, Ga., 300,000 pounds of farmers' meat was found in storage last winter; at Thomasville, 500,000 pounds, and at Lyons, 175,000 pounds. Such meat storage plants exist in nearly every town of any size in southern Georgia.

(8) Hog production in Alabama increased 87,000 head during the year in spite of the lowest prices in a decade. This increase was largely due to the fact that farmers over the State could not afford to buy their meat with 6-cent cotton.

GERTRUDE L. WARREN

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) Miss Marion Forbes of Massachusetts reports that they are planning to develop a family-relationship program in connection with the home-making club activities already under way.

A. B. NYSTROM

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) Minnesota recently made an important step toward strengthening their dairy extension work. The county program plan which is operating effectively in other States is now in operation in 12 counties. The plan is based on local needs determined by a county committee of township representatives. It will be extended to other counties as fast as facilities permit.

M. P. JONES

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) Spray service men in New York are continuing to give spray service to growers and considering very carefully the economics of each spray application. The omission or inclusion of expensive spray materials from certain sprays is very carefully considered before any action. This spray service is gradually extending to potato growers and to some vegetable growers.

P. D. SANDERS

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) Arkansas organized a spray service for her peach growers in the Nashville, Ark., peach belt this year.

(2) Louisiana has developed a unique method of reaching a larger number of home gardeners with insect-control information.

(3) The South Carolina extension entomologist is operating a timely news service on boll-weevil conditions in that State each week.

Specific pieces of work observed:

C. O. Hopkins, extension entomologist of Louisiana, has developed a dusting demonstration for the control of various household, truck garden, and flower-garden insects, which he has given in 10 Louisiana parishes before the executive committee of the county women's clubs in the presence of the home demonstration agents. The demonstration, which is simple and effective, has been repeated by the local leaders before all interested clubs in the 10 parishes.

C. P. CLOSE

Specific pieces of work referred to:

Sales from five orchards belonging to W. B. Manget, a Georgia peach grower, amounted in 1930 to more than \$100,000. This year, with favorable weather conditions, he anticipates a crop that will yield him in excess of \$75,000. In a letter to this office he attributes much of his success in handling his orchards to the information and encouragement given him by G. H. Firor, State extension horticulturist for Georgia.

R. J. HASKELL

Specific pieces of work referred to:

(1) The Texas A. & M. College farm and home special train running over the Santa Fe Railroad this year made 152 stops and was visited by 124,725 people, an average of 821 at each stop. Visitors to a similar train operated in 1928 totaled 111,600.

(2) J. F. Jarrell of Topeka, Kans., manager of agricultural development for the Santa Fe Railroad said that the train was the best that had ever been sponsored by any State agricultural college. He had directed 47 agricultural trains in 10 of the 12 Santa Fe States.

(3) The Santa Fe, Soo Line, and Milwaukee Railroads each conducted a series of grain-grading schools over some of their lines in Kansas, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota early this year.

H. L. SHRADER

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) A comparison of egg production records from demonstration farm flocks with the records of flocks on which production data are supplied by crop reporters to the division of crop and livestock estimates of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics shows that demonstration flocks produced almost 2 dozen more eggs per bird per year. One-half of this increase was produced in the first four months of the poultry year (November to February inclusive) when egg prices are highest. This increase can be attributed to the improved practices in breeding, feeding, and housing poultry as recommended by the extension service. Data from the farm census show that the crop reporters' flocks are better than the average farm flocks, so these production figures would become more significant when compared with the average farm flock of the State. The feed cost for a flock in heavy production is only slightly higher than the low production flock, while the overhead cost such as housing, labor, and interest on investment, remains the same.

(2) April reports from the demonstration farm flocks from certain States show that flocks are being fed so as to keep up a high rate of production.

E. M. NIGHTBERT

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) The Iowa Extension Service, veterinary practitioners, farm bureau organizations, and bankers have pooled their interest in immunizing hogs against cholera this year to prevent the disease that is now threatening the swine industry.

Specific pieces of work observed:

(1) The live-at-home program carried out last fall in Illinois shows outstanding results in the good gardens observed on every farm during an extended trip in the State last month.

(2) The cooperative horse parasite control campaign conducted last winter in Illinois, was highly successful and satisfactory to all concerned. In all, 140,000 head of equine stock were treated.

VISUAL INSTRUCTION AND EDITORIAL WORK

L. A. SCHLUP

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) That film strips are considered an important adjunct to extension media in Ohio is indicated in an item in a recent issue of the Ohio Extension Service News. County extension agents in southeastern Ohio requested Clarence M. Ferguson and C. R. Arnold, extension specialists, to make available a film strip series featuring the profitable raising of poultry.

(2) Using the records of owners of demonstration flocks and farm accounts and photographs taken by George Ackerman in 1931, a film strip was prepared which shows that a flock of 25 to 40 hens returns as much profit as one cow. This film strip was used to illustrate a lecture made by Mr. Ferguson in each of the counties. His lecture has since been followed up with from one to ten repetitions by the county agents, during which they localized the information to suit each community.

(3) The series has proved to be so successful that the Ohio and West Virginia extension services combined in a request to the department to send Mr. Ackerman to the Ohio Valley again this year to take additional photographs of the production and marketing phases of poultry for use in film strips. Mr. Ackerman arranged to visit this locality in July.